

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 AID-20 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

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P 140855Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9702

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 690

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, EGEN

SUBJECT: NORTHROP AIRPORT CONTRACT

REF: BANGKOK 0366

1. UNCLASSIFIED. SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL LOCAL PRESS CARRIED NUMEROUS REPORTS EXPRESSING OPPOSITION BY STUDENTS AND OTHERS TO SECOND AIRPORT CONTRACT, INCLUDING ALLEGED STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF AT LEAST TWO BANKS THAT HAVE PURCHASED STOCK IN JOINT VENTURE AIRPORT COMPANY TO EFFECT THEY WOULD LIKE TO RETURN THEIR STOCK.

2. BANGKOK POST JANUARY 14 FEATURES ON FRONT PAGE UNDER HEADLINE QUOTE AIRPORT DEAL IN MORE TROUBLE END QUOTE REPORT THAT A FORMER MEMBER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WAS CONVINCED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN REQUIRED 60 SIGNATURES TO ASSURE INSCRIPTION OF DEBATE ON AIRPORT CONTRACT ON ASSEMBLY CALENDAR. SAME ARTICLE SAID OVER 40 SIGNATURES HAD ALREADY BEEN OBTAINED. ALSO INCLUDED WAS A REPORT THAT A DELEGATION FROM QUOTE THE AIRLINES ASSOCIATION END QUOTE HAD SENT A STATEMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS EXPRESSING SKEPTICISM OVER NORTHROP'S

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AIR PASSENGER PROJECTIONS AS SUPPORT FOR SECOND AIRPORT,

AND ASSERTING THAT THE OIL SHORTAGE HAD CREATED NEW
UNCERTAINTIES FOR CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON CONTRACT APPEARS VIRTUALLY
CERTAIN (REFTEL). OPPOSITION OF AIR TRANSPORT COMPANIES
REPRESENTED IN BANGKOK TO SECOND AIRPORT IS LONG STANDING
AND WAS SUBJECT OF A MEETING HELD BY THEM IN BANGKOK AT
END OCTOBER 1972 (MEMCON WAS SENT EA/TB).

4. BEFORE ABOVE TELEGRAM COULD BE FORWARDED LOCAL REPRE-
SENTATIVE OF NORTHROP AIRCRAFT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
TELEPHONED TO ECON/CML COUNSELOR WITH MESSAGE FROM JACK
BAILHE TO EFFECT THAT GLEN LORD HAD INFORMED MINISTER OF
INDUSTRY OSOT KOSIN BY LETTER IT WAS WITHDRAWING FROM THE
CONTRACT. AMONG OTHER REASONS CITED WERE WITHDRAWAL OF
PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND DESIRE ON NORTHROP'S PART
NOT TO ADD TO POLITICAL DIVISIVENESS IN THAILAND
OVER AIRPORT CONTRACT. THAI HEAD OF LOCAL AIRPORT CONSTRUC-
TION JOINT VENTURE COMPANY WILL HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE LATER
IN DAY OF JANUARY 17 TO EXPLAIN NORTHROP'S DECISION.
KINTNER

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To: STATE
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